(d) in case the drilled wells could not be completed in totality whether the locations served the purpose of test drilling; and

(e) if not, the reasons why further drilling were not undertaken in surrounding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Out of the 36 (31 On-Shore and 5 Off-Shore) wells drilling by ONGC in West Bengal, geological objective could not be achieved in one case, i.e., Bodra 1, due to technical reasons. Two wells, viz., Ichapur-1 and Gold Green-1 in onland Bengal, gave indications and shows of hydrocarbon, during drilling/testing.

(e) Well Bodra 2 was drilled in the surrounding areas of Bodra 1.

Setting up of LNG Terminal at Haldia, West Bengal

417. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1959 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal has sought the support of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in setting up of a L.N.G. terminal at Haldia;

(b) whether the State Government has offered to take part in equity for setting up of such a project at Haldia; and

(c) if so, the response of Government to this offer, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Import of LNG is on the OGL and does not require licence from the Government. Currently, there is no proposal from any of the parties to establish LNG terminal at Haldia.

Lowering of Diesel Price

418. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a New Year gift, Government had decided to lower the diesel prices in tune with the fall in global oil prices;

(b) if so, the extent of reduction affected; and

(c) whether the prices of petrol and other petroleum products were also proportionately reduced, if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government announced a comprehensive package to end the oil pool deficit on September 1, 1997. The Government also decided that henceforth the price of HSD would be on import parity basis. Accordingly, the ex-storage point price of HSD has been revised as under:

Effective dates	Ex-storage point price (excluding excise duty etc.) Rs/KL
07.11.97	7918.04
25.12.97	7996.84
01.03.98	7839.24
04.04.98	7645.47
20.05.98	7536.89
09.01.99	6722.37